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# State Plans

## Overview and Table of Contents

State, local, and regional plans provide a framework for developing Washington's transportation system. Included in this section are descriptions of plans developed by the state.

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TITLE: **State Transportation Policy**

REQUIRED BY: RCW 47.01.071(1) and RCW 47.06.030

PREPARED BY: Transportation Commission and Department of Transportation (WSDOT)

APPROVED BY: Transportation Commission and submitted to the Legislature

NEXT UPDATE: Currently in progress. Completion due Fall 2005.

DESCRIPTION

- The State Transportation Policy has been incorporated into the Washington Transportation Plan. See the Washington Transportation Plan section of this reference manual.

PURPOSE

- Fulfills requirements of RCW 47.01.071(3)
- Provides transportation policy guidance and recommendations to the Legislature, as well as regional and local transportation providers
- Provides broad-based transportation goals that drive the policies in Washington's Transportation Plan

<u>TITLE:</u>	<b>Washington's Transportation Plan</b>
<u>REQUIRED BY:</u>	RCW 47.01.071(3) and RCW 47.06.040; the Transportation Equity Act (TEA-21) also requires states to develop a statewide, long-range, multimodal transportation plan
<u>PREPARED BY:</u>	Transportation Commission and Department of Transportation (WSDOT) in partnership with the Regional Transportation Planning Organizations
<u>APPROVED BY:</u>	Transportation Commission and submitted to the Legislature
<u>NEXT UPDATE:</u>	Currently being updated. Completion due Fall of 2005.
<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Washington's Transportation Plan</i> (WTP) presents a 20-year vision for the state-owned and state-interest modes of transportation. The plan is currently being updated.</li> <li>• State-owned systems include State Highways, the Washington State Ferries, and state-owned airports. WSDOT provides the majority of funding for the operation of eight of the 12 daily trains operated as Amtrak's <i>Cascades</i> passenger rail system.</li> <li>• State-interest facilities and services include public transportation, freight, and other Amtrak long-distance trains, marine ports and navigation, bicycle and pedestrian transportation, and aviation (other than state-owned airports). These state-interest modes are mostly owned and operated by local agencies or private businesses.</li> <li>• The 2005 update of the statewide transportation plan (Washington Transportation Plan or WTP) is a data-driven and analytical process organized into ten major cross cutting issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. System Preservation</li> <li>2. Safety</li> <li>3. System Efficiencies</li> <li>4. Bottlenecks and Chokepoints</li> <li>5. Freight Movement</li> <li>6. Strong Economy and Good Jobs</li> <li>7. Health and the Environment</li> <li>8. Transportation Access</li> <li>9. Funding and Regional Governance</li> <li>10. Building Future Visions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

#### PURPOSE

The WTP is the decision document that links state, regional and local transportation plans to provide strategic directions for sound transportation investments.

The current WTP update contains:

- An overview of the current conditions facing the statewide transportation system
- An assessment of the state's transportation investment needs for the next 20-years
- A statewide policy for transportation

It is the intent of the Commission to produce a Washington Transportation Plan that includes an investment proposal with high, medium and low priorities for state projects. The WTP will also include proposals for statewide programs and policies.

<u>TITLE:</u>	<b>State Highway System Plan</b>
<u>REQUIRED BY:</u>	RCW 47.06.050(1)
<u>PREPARED BY:</u>	Transportation Commission and Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
<u>APPROVED BY:</u>	Transportation Commission and submitted to the Legislature
<u>NEXT UPDATE:</u>	Fall 2005 - Concurrent with next WTP update.

#### DESCRIPTION

- Primary element of Washington's Transportation Plan, addresses the state's highway system.
- Includes a comprehensive assessment of existing and projected 20-year deficiencies on our state's highway system. It also lists potential solutions addressing the deficiencies. The Plan:
  - Forecasts future transportation needs based on the WSDOT's maintenance, operation, preservation, mobility, safety, economic, and environmental programs.
  - Specifies objectives and the supporting action strategies and assessment of needs for each program.
  - Serves as the basis for the capital investment goals and strategies, and the assessment of needs for each program.
- The Washington State highway system plan encompasses the following elements:
  - Maintenance, operation, and preservation of over 7,000 centerline miles of state and interstate highway system. These state and interstate highways form the backbone of Washington's surface transportation system by networking with more than 73,000 centerline miles of city, county, state, and federal roads. In addition, this network includes ten year-round mountain passes, 43 safety rest areas, approximately 75,000 stormwater catch basins and culverts, over 3,000 bridges, 34 tunnels, traveler information systems and many other highway elements.
  - Improvement of the state highway system's capital and operational infrastructure to increase efficiency, address the capacity/demand imbalance, enhance safety, promote economic initiatives, and protect the environment.

#### PURPOSE

- Guides WSDOT in prioritizing and budgeting highway projects.
- Updated every two years, to provide projects for the 10 year Capital Improvement and Preservation Program (CIPP).

TITLE: **State Ferry System Plan \***

REQUIRED BY: RCW 47.06.050(2)

PREPARED BY: Transportation Commission and Department of Transportation (WSDOT)  
Washington State Ferries

APPROVED BY: The Transportation Commission and submitted to the Legislature

NEXT UPDATE: Currently being updated. Scheduled for completion, Fall 2005

DESCRIPTION

- "State-owned" component of Washington's Transportation Plan
- Defines service objectives, or desirable levels of performance, for the major ferry programs of Maintenance, Operations, Preservation, and Improvements
- Coordinated with Regional Transportation Plans on both sides of Puget Sound
- Will be financially constrained within available 20-year revenues

PURPOSE

- Defines Ferry System needs and supports the Transportation Commission's biennial budget request to the Legislature

\* The WSF, in conjunction with the Washington State Patrol, is currently implementing a ferry security plan required by the federal government pursuant to the "Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002" (46 U.S.C. §§ 70101).

TITLE: **Public Transportation System Plan and Annual Summary Report**

REQUIRED BY: RCW 47.06.090, RCW 47.06.110 and RCW 35.58.2796

PREPARED BY: Transportation Commission and Department of Transportation (WSDOT)

APPROVED BY: Transportation Commission and submitted to the Legislature

RELEASED: Last system plan update, December 1996; Public Transportation Summary Report, October 2004

DESCRIPTION

- Annual report to Legislative Transportation Committee that describes individual public transportation systems, including contracted and dial-a-ride; includes a statewide summary of public transportation issues and data.
- The Annual Summary Report inventory includes data on:
  1. Equipment and facilities, including vehicle replacement standards
  2. Services and service standards
  3. Revenue, expenses, and ending balances, by fund source
  4. Policy issues and service improvement objectives, including community participation in development of objectives, and how objectives address statewide transportation priorities
  5. Operating indicators to services, revenues and expenses
- The system plan serves as the public transportation component of the Washington Transportation Plan.
- The 2005 update will define the state role, as well as the role of other entities in public transportation, and provide direction to achieve program goals.
  - Recommends mechanisms for coordinating public transportation with other transportation services and modes.
  - Recommends a statewide public transportation facilities and equipment management system as required by federal law.
  - Recommends criteria consistent with the goals above and with 82.44.180 (2) and (3), for existing federal authorizations administered by the department to transit agencies.
  - In developing the system plan update, the WSDOT will involve local, state and federal agencies, public and private providers of transportation services, and non-motorized interests.

PURPOSE

- To improve transit services through coordination and defined objectives
- Defines the state's interest and the state's responsibility regarding public transportation and intercity passenger rail
- Provides goals, objectives, and strategies to target the allocation of state resources for public transportation and intercity passenger rail
- Enables effective coordination to develop an integrated transportation plan

TITLE: **Amtrak Cascades Rail Plan for Washington State 1998-2018 Update**

REQUIRED BY: RCW 47.06.090 and 47.79.040

PREPARED BY: Transportation Commission and Department of Transportation (WSDOT)

APPROVED BY: Transportation Commission

NEXT UPDATE: An updated needs assessment will be completed by December 2004 and a plan update will follow.

DESCRIPTION

- "State interest" North-South Corridor component of 2003 Washington's Transportation Plan.
- Vision: To have faster, more frequent, safe and reliable service between Portland, Oregon Seattle, Washington, Vancouver, British Columbia, and ten intermediate communities.
- The plan includes program history, program goals, capital construction projects required to meet these goals, cost estimates, equipment requirements, ridership and revenue projections, and all supporting documentation.

PURPOSE

- Recommends actions in coordination with appropriate public and private transportation providers to ensure that the state interest is met
- Complies with passenger rail planning guidelines created by USDOT for states seeking potential federal funds for high-speed rail development

TITLE: **Freight Rail Plan**

REQUIRED BY: RCW 47.06.080 and RCW 47.76.220

PREPARED BY: Transportation Commission and Department of Transportation

APPROVED BY: Transportation Commission and submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration

NEXT UPDATE: 2002 Addendum to the 1998 Washington State Freight Rail Plan. An update will occur after adoption of the 2005 WTP Update

DESCRIPTION

- "State interest" component of Washington's Transportation Plan
- Contains a description of the state's role in freight rail, the state rail system, rail traffic densities, freight traffic composition, current issues, funding eligibility criteria, rail line evaluations, a description of the analytical methodology, a list of rail line abandonments, and projects that are to be completed with available funds

PURPOSE

- Required by the Federal Railroad Administration to make Washington eligible for federal Local Rail Freight Assistance (LRFA) funding
- Allows public review and input to the rail abandonment and preservation process

<u>TITLE:</u>	<b>Marine Ports and Navigation Plan</b>
<u>REQUIRED BY:</u>	RCW 47.06.070
<u>PREPARED BY:</u>	Transportation Commission and Department of Transportation
<u>APPROVED BY:</u>	Transportation Commission and submitted to the Legislature
<u>LAST UPDATE:</u>	2004 Marine Cargo Forecast

#### DESCRIPTION

- "State interest" component of Washington's Transportation Plan
- Assesses the transportation needs of Washington's marine ports and navigable waterways
- Identifies improvements needed to support international trade and economic development
- The 2004 update of the Marine Cargo Forecast is a significant source of information of the Washington Transportation Plan. This update identified:
  - The amount of waterborne cargo moving through Washington ports is projected to increase by two-thirds over the next two decades.
  - Challenges face Washington's freight rail system since the two fastest growing sectors of cargo movement – containers and grain – move primarily by train. Containers moving by rail are expected to increase by 4.5% per year.
  - Waterborne container trade has increased over 240% since 1982 and growth of 4% per year is predicted to last until 2025.
  - Columbia-Snake River ports face a continuing challenge to maintain barge transportation while protecting fish population and a channel depth of 14 feet.
  - This forecast has estimates of cargo for containers, dry bulk, break bulk and liquid bulk commodities.
- The data developed for the forecast will be used in the update of the Washington Transportation Plan.

#### PURPOSE

- Guides future development of Washington's marine ports
- Highlights role of marine ports in development of Washington's economy

TITLE: **Washington Aviation System Plan**

REQUIRED BY: RCW 47.68 and 47.06.060

PREPARED BY: Transportation Commission and Department of Transportation

APPROVED BY: Transportation Commission

NEXT UPDATE: Fall 2005 -- To also be included in the next WTP.

NEXT UPDATE

The Aviation System plan is conducted on a continuous planning basis and provides a long-range perspective of the state's aviation system. The system plan is comprised of several components and special studies including an aviation airport inventory and forecasts; statewide aviation economic benefits; airport pavement conditions; land use compatibility; airport development guidelines and recommended capital facilities component. The pending Aviation System Plan update is intended to be a component of the updated Washington Transportation Plan.

DESCRIPTION

- "State-interest" component of Washington's Transportation Plan
- Identifies the type, location, cost, and timing of airport development needs statewide to establish a balanced and integrated system of airports serving Washington residents
- Assists the state and the federal government in carrying out their legislatively mandated responsibilities to promote aviation and aviation safety

PURPOSE

- Fulfills the statewide aviation planning requirements of state and federal governments
- Coordinates statewide aviation planning
- Identifies the type and function of public use airports
- Identifies the program and public investment strategies for public use and state airports
- Identifies the state system needs and deficiencies
- Serves as a tool in meeting state transportation priorities
- Provides baseline information regarding physical facility inventory, obstructions, adjacent land uses, forecasts and capacity demands, and economic impacts of aviation on local, regional, and state economy
- Enables informed fiscal decision-making for state funding priorities, as well as federal funding priorities.

TITLE: **Bicycle Transportation and Pedestrian Walkways Plan**

REQUIRED BY: RCW 47.06.100

PREPARED BY: Transportation Commission and Department of Transportation

APPROVED BY: Transportation Commission and submitted to the Legislature

NEXT UPDATE: July 2005

DESCRIPTION

- "State-interest" component of Washington's Transportation Plan
- Proposes a statewide strategy for addressing bicycle and pedestrian transportation
  - Integration of bicycle and pedestrian facilities with other transportation modes
  - Coordination among local governments, regional agencies, and the state in the provision of such facilities
  - The role of such facilities in reducing traffic congestion
  - An assessment of statewide bicycle and pedestrian transportation needs

PURPOSE

- Fulfils state and federal requirements for a long-range bicycle transportation and pedestrian walkways plan